

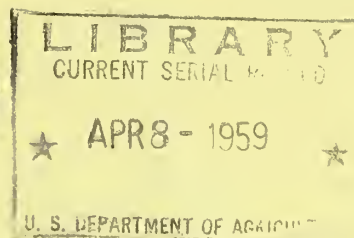
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FOOD PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture March 26, 1959
Agricultural Marketing Service F P - 27

MEAT.....Total meat output may run about 8% ahead of last year, with most of increase in pork. Consumption this year will probably reach 158 pounds a person--7 pounds above 1958 and among highest levels for any year since 1900.

Beef.....Output will show modest gain over 1958, mainly due to increase in fed, or higher grade, beef. Consumption this year estimated at 81 pounds a person, or about equal last year.

Pork.....Marketings from last fall's 17% greater pig crop will continue into mid-summer and, with 13% more spring pigs expected than last year, output will be substantially ahead of 1958. This year's consumption may reach about 66 pounds a person, or 5-1/2 pounds above 1958.

Lamb.....Slaughter of lamb and sheep so far this year has run considerably above year earlier. For balance of 1959, slaughter will hold near or rise only very slightly above this period last year.

POULTRY.....Broiler supplies in May will probably run 16% to 18% above last May when total was 126.8 million birds. This is based on recent placements for year, consumption of all chicken meat will likely be near 30 pounds a person--almost 2 pounds above year earlier--with broilers accounting for three-fourths of total.

Turkeys.....So far turkey hatchings have exceeded farmers first-of-the-year plans to raise about 5% more turkeys than last year's nearly 78 million birds. This increase would set a new record. On March 1 cold storage holdings stood at 141 million pounds--16% above average for that date, but 9% below previous March 1 record.

Eggs.....Production each month of 1959 will likely be above 1958, even if spring hatchings decline 5%, compared with year earlier. Rate of lay so far this year has averaged 3% above last year.

DAIRY.....Milk output in January and February dipped slightly below year ago, but production for entire year will probably equal 1958--may even exceed it slightly. Commercially, overall per capita consumption likely to be maintained this year.

FRUITS:

Citrus.....Considerably more citrus remained for marketing after March 1 than previous season. Latest estimates show total citrus crop 11% greater than last season and 3% above average. Oranges, up 14%, grapefruit, up 9%, tangerines, more than double previous season; limes, only a little more than half previous crop, lemons, slightly below year earlier but almost a fourth

greater than average. Despite heavier pack of frozen orange juice, cold storage holdings March 1--29 million gallons--were still 1 million gallons below year earlier. Florida canned single-strength citrus juices--excluding tangerine juice--still were below 1958 and total stocks continued much smaller.

Strawberries. Early spring production expected to be 26% greater than year ago but 9% below average. Acreage in mid-spring and late-spring areas--which produce bulk of crop--runs somewhat under last year's harvested acreage.

Apples.....March 1 cold storage stocks were 21 million bushels--some 3 million above year earlier and 7 million bushels above March 1 average.

Pears.....Storage holdings about 950 thousand boxes March 1. That's 7% below year earlier but 5% above average for date.

Processed....Storage stocks frozen fruits March 1 stood at 412 million pounds. While only 2% larger than year earlier, 19% above average for date.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....For early spring harvest, asparagus output appears slightly above last spring, broccoli and lettuce moderately larger, but cauliflower much larger. Onion forecast is 30% below last year. Cabbage acreage down very slightly but tomato acreage shows 12% decline. Yields near average of recent years on indicated acreage would mean a little more cabbage, but considerably less tomatoes than year earlier.

Processed....Canned vegetable supplies moderately larger than year ago and considerably higher than 1949-57 average. Smaller stocks of asparagus, lima beans and sweet corn more than offset by greater supplies of snap beans, green peas, tomatoes and most tomato products. Frozen vegetable holdings March 1 totaled 688 million pounds--slightly under year ago but 15% above March 1 average.

Potatoes.....Growers reduced early spring acreage by 21%, late spring by 15%. While stocks of potatoes from the 1958 fall crop are still greater than year ago, total supplies, including new crop, over next few months probably will be only moderately above last year.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is supporting these forthcoming industry food campaigns:

CEREAL AND MILK SPRING FESTIVAL April 1 - 30

JUNE DAIRY MONTH June 1 - 30